

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,777,797 to Egawa. Without acceding to the rejection, Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to set forth additional distinctive features of Applicants' invention. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and the remaining claims have been editorially revised to improve clarity. Dependent Claims 10-12 have been added to provide an additional protection for certain aspects of Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are pending for further consideration.

As will be apparent, at least in view of the amendments herein, Applicants' claims distinguish patentably from the Egawa reference. For example, independent Claim 1 now more particularly sets forth that the microcomputer chip has a substantially square planar shape, that the memory chip has a substantially rectangular planar shape, and further that a length of a side of said microcomputer chip is shorter than a length of a long side of said memory chip, with the microcomputer chip being stacked over the memory chip. Independent Claim 6 includes similar limitations. With the

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claimed arrangement of Applicants' invention, superposition of terminals of the microcomputer chip and the memory chip can be avoided, allowing for a more reliable package structure. This is especially advantageous with package structures in which the microcomputer chip has a much greater number of terminals than the memory chip (see also Claims 10-11).

Egawa neither discloses nor suggests the aforementioned features of Claims 1 and 6, nor the attendant advantages. Rather, in contrast to Applicants' invention, Egawa teaches that an external profile of a collar portion 18 (longest dimension of chip 16) and a profile of a lower chip 12 are substantially the same. See Egawa, Col.6, lines 6-8 and Col.11, lines 46-47.

Accordingly, each of independent Claims 1 and 6 is allowable over Egawa. The dependent claims depart even further from Egawa, but are of course allowable on at least the same basis as their respective parent claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully urge that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn and that this application now be passed to issue.

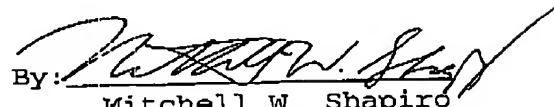
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit

any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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